

CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name:	Spectrum Communications Cable Cascade Coounty
Proposed Implementation Date:	August 2020
Proponent:	Spectrum Pacific West LLC
Location:	18N 1E S3&4
County:	Cascade
Trust:	Common Schools

I. TYPE AND PURPOSE OF ACTION

The purpose of this checklist is to asses the environmental impacts of allow the Spectrum Pacific to install a buried communications cable near the Missouri river in Cascade county.

II. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED:

Provide a brief chronology of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project.

The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)
Central Land Office (CLO)
Proponent: Spectrum Pacific West LLC
Surface Lessees: Richard E. Bogden II
Other: County Conservation District

2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:

The DNRC, and NELO have jurisdiction over this proposed project.

The proponent will also be required to obtain a 310 permit for the stretch of cable that will go through Little Muddy Creek.

The proponent is responsible for acquiring all necessary permits for the proposed project and settling all surface damages with the surface lessees.

3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

Alternative A (No Action) – Under this alternative, the Department does not grant permission for the proponent to build a buried communication cable.

Alternative B (the Proposed Action) – Under this alternative, the Department does grant permission for the proponent to build a buried communication cable.

III. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

- *RESOURCES potentially impacted are listed on the form, followed by common issues that would be considered.*
- *Explain POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATIONS following each resource heading.*
- *Enter "NONE" if no impacts are identified or the resource is not present.*

4. GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE:

Consider the presence of fragile, compactable or unstable soils. Identify unusual geologic features. Specify any special reclamation considerations. Identify any cumulative impacts to soils.

The area to be affected by the construction would not likely have any serious long term affects to the soil. Most of the soils are rated as slight for off road erosion and Moderately suited for reclamation which shows that the construction will not likely result in a great loss of soil due to erosion and will not have any trouble with reclamation.

All of the soils in the proposed area are rated at medium for soil compactability risk. Because of this rating the proponent will have to keep the traffic to necessary vehicles only to reduce the compaction. Due to the short term nature of cable installation there will likely be very little compaction even with heavier traffic.

Table - Soil Compactability Risk - Summary by Rating Value				
Summary by Rating Value		Summary by Rating Value		
	Rating	Acres In AOI	Percent of AOI	
Medium		43.7	100.0%	
Totals for Area of Interest		43.7	100.0%	

Table - Reclamation Suitability (M1) - Summary by Rating Value				
Summary by Rating Value		Summary by Rating Value		
	Rating	Acres In AOI	Percent of AOI	
Moderately suited		36.8	84.2%	
Poorly suited		4.0	9.2%	
Well suited		2.9	6.6%	
Totals for Area of Interest		43.7	100.0%	

Table - Erosion Hazard (Off-Road, Off-Trail) - Summary by Rating Value				
Summary by Rating Value		Summary by Rating Value		
	Rating	Acres In AOI	Percent of AOI	
Slight		36.7	83.9%	
Moderate		7.0	16.1%	
Totals for Area of Interest		43.7	100.0%	

No significant cumulative impacts to geology or soil quality, stability, and moisture are anticipated.

5. WATER QUALITY, QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION:

Identify important surface or groundwater resources. Consider the potential for violation of ambient water quality standards, drinking water maximum contaminant levels, or degradation of water quality. Identify cumulative effects to water resources.

Nearby water wells show static water at anywhere from 4 feet to 18 feet below ground level. Because of this information and the fact that the cable will be installed within the floodplain of the Missouri river groundwater will Likely be encountered. However because the open ground disturbance will be open for a very short period of time and the only thing installed will be a cable there should be no significant adverse impact on water quality and no impact to quantity or distribution.

Some surface water may be disturbed at the crossing of muddy creek in section 4. Depending on the method of crossing the creek there could be some short term increased sediment loads. If the cable is bored under the creek there will likely be no surface water disturbance.

No significant impacts to local or regional water resources are anticipated.

6. AIR QUALITY:

What pollutants or particulate would be produced? Identify air quality regulations or zones (e.g. Class I air shed) the project would influence. Identify cumulative effects to air quality.

There may be temporary air quality affects during construction because of the dust and exhaust from equipment but they will be short lived. The construction time on telecommunications cables is swift and there should be no long term decreases in air quality.

No significant impacts to air quality are anticipated.

7. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY:

What changes would the action cause to vegetative communities? Consider rare plants or cover types that would be affected. Identify cumulative effects to vegetation.

A narrow strip of vegetation would be ripped up during construction but it will be mostly in an area already disturbed by previous construction along a road and reclaimed with hardy non-natives. Because of this the vegetation effects will most likely be minor and short lived.

If re-seeding is necessary the proponent will acquire certified, weed free seed and refer to the Plant Materials Tech Note No. MT-46 (Rev. 4) dated September 2013 for seeding rates.

No rare plants or cover types are present. No significant impacts to vegetation are anticipated.

8. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS:

Consider substantial habitat values and use of the area by wildlife, birds or fish. Identify cumulative effects to fish and wildlife.

No significant impacts to terrestrial, avian, or aquatic habitats are anticipated.

9. UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES:

Consider any federally listed threatened or endangered species or habitat identified in the project area. Determine effects to wetlands. Consider Sensitive Species or Species of special concern. Identify cumulative effects to these species and their habitat.

There are three bird species and one amphibian species that have been observed in the project area. The spiny softshell Turtle may be affected while the construction is crossing the stream but most of the route occurs far enough away from the wetland areas that it is not likely to affect the turtle in any serious way. All the birds will likely just be affected by temporary displacement during the construction

Birds - American White Pelican (<i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i>)					Obs Count: 1	Earliest Obs: 1990	Recent Obs: 1995
View in Field Guide Species of Concern Native Species Global Rank: G5 State Rank: S2B					Agency Status USFWS: S2B1A USFS BLM: SENSITIVE FWP SWAP: SOCH3 PSP: 2		
OBS ID	OBSERVERS	OBSERVATION DATE	LOCATION (City/County)	INFO			
50620260	Suzman, Karen and James	Mar 21, 1995	County: CHITWA, MT Locality: 14.22 Location: Madison River between Cascade and Lim Precision: 11400 meters	Observation Type: 1 - Targeted Intergate Count: Unknown Data 1			
Birds - Loggerhead Shrike (<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>)					Obs Count: 1	Earliest Obs: 2014	Recent Obs: 2014
View in Field Guide Species of Concern Native Species Global Rank: G5 State Rank: S2B					Agency Status USFWS: S2B1A, BCC10, BCC17 USFS BLM: SENSITIVE FWP SWAP: SOCH3 PSP: 2		
OBS ID	OBSERVERS	OBSERVATION DATE	LOCATION (City/County)	INFO			
81864808	Mazel, Bryce	Jul 08, 2014	County: CHITWA, MT Locality: 17223.94 177 Location: 1.5 km of the bend of Riverdale Precision: 20 meters	Observation Type: 2 - indirect evidence of breeding			
Reptiles - Spiny Softshell (<i>Apalone spinifer</i>)					Obs Count: 1	Earliest Obs: 2008	Recent Obs: 2009
View in Field Guide Species of Concern Native Species Global Rank: G5 State Rank: S3					Agency Status USFWS USFS BLM: SENSITIVE FWP SWAP: SOCH3		
OBS ID	OBSERVERS	OBSERVATION DATE	LOCATION (City/County)	INFO			
51141533	Gruen, Grant	Jul 22, 2009	County: CHITWA, MT Locality: 17223.94 177 Location: 1.5 km of the bend of Riverdale Precision: 20 meters	Observation Type: 2 - indirect evidence of breeding Count: 1 Remarks: Female, 15 - 18 inch carapace, marked with red. Estimated of creek mouth - river bottom with cottonwood riparian cover. Count: 1 Female, 1			

Some temporary displacement may occur but no long term population impacts are expected.

No significant impacts to unique, endangered, fragile or limited environmental resources are anticipated, though temporary displacement of local wildlife may occur during the project.

10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES:

Identify and determine effects to historical, archaeological or paleontological resources.

A Class I (literature review) level review was conducted by the DNRC staff archaeologist for the area of potential effect (APE). This entailed inspection of project maps, DNRC's sites/site leads database, land use records, General Land Office Survey Plats, and control cards. The Class I search revealed that *Antiquities* have not been identified in the APE. No additional archaeological investigative work will be conducted in response to this proposed development. However, if previously unknown cultural or paleontological materials are identified during project related activities, all work will cease until a professional assessment of such resources can be made.

No significant effects on historical, archaeological, or paleontological resources anticipated.

11. AESTHETICS:

Determine if the project is located on a prominent topographic feature, or may be visible from populated or scenic areas. What level of noise, light or visual change would be produced? Identify cumulative effects to aesthetics.

No significant impacts on the aesthetics of the area are anticipated.

12. DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, AIR OR ENERGY:

Determine the amount of limited resources the project would require. Identify other activities nearby that the project would affect. Identify cumulative effects to environmental resources.

No limited environmental resources will be significantly impacted because of this project. This project will also not add any significant cumulative demands on environmental resources.

13. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA:

List other studies, plans or projects on this tract. Determine cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of current private, state or federal actions in the analysis area, and from future proposed state actions in the analysis area that are under MEPA review (scoped) or permitting review by any state agency.

There are no other projects or plans being considered on the tracts listed in this EA Checklist.

IV. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION

- *RESOURCES potentially impacted are listed on the form, followed by common issues that would be considered.*
- *Explain POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATIONS following each resource heading.*
- *Enter "NONE" if no impacts are identified or the resource is not present.*

14. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY:

Identify any health and safety risks posed by the project.

There will be some risk to human health and safety associated with the construction of this project and the operation of equipment. It is the proponents job to mitigate the risk associated with the construction.

15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURE ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION:

Identify how the project would add to or alter these activities.

This project will not add to or deter from other industrial or agricultural activities in the area. It would add to the commercial activities in the area by providing higher speed and more reliable internet access to the rural community.

16. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT:

Estimate the number of jobs the project would create, move or eliminate. Identify cumulative effects to the employment market.

The project will not create or eliminate any jobs, so no significant effects to the employment market are anticipated.

17. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES:

Estimate tax revenue the project would create or eliminate. Identify cumulative effects to taxes and revenue.

There are no direct or cumulative effects to taxes or revenue for the proposed project.

18. DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES:

Estimate increases in traffic and changes to traffic patterns. What changes would be needed to fire protection, police, schools, etc.? Identify cumulative effects of this and other projects on government services

There will not be any significant increases in traffic, school attendance, or need for fire and police protection if this project is approved.

19. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS:

List State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, and other zoning or management plans, and identify how they would affect this project.

There are no zoning or other agency management plans affecting this project.

20. ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES:

Identify any wilderness or recreational areas nearby or access routes through this tract. Determine the effects of the project on recreational potential within the tract. Identify cumulative effects to recreational and wilderness activities.

There will be no significant direct or cumulative effects on access to or quality of recreation and wilderness activities because of this project.

21. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING:

Estimate population changes and additional housing the project would require. Identify cumulative effects to population and housing

The proposed project does not include any changes to housing or developments.

22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES:

Identify potential disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities.

There are no native, unique or traditional lifestyles or communities in the vicinity that would be significantly impacted by the proposal.

23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY:

How would the action affect any unique quality of the area?

The proposed project will have no significant impact on any culturally unique quality of the area.

24. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES:

Estimate the return to the trust. Include appropriate economic analysis. Identify potential future uses for the analysis area other than existing management. Identify cumulative economic and social effects likely to occur as a result of the proposed action.

This project will contribute \$2632.00 to the school trust through an easement fee.

The proposed project will not have any significant cumulative economic or social effect.

V. FINDING**25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:**


Alternative B (the Proposed Action) – Under this alternative, the Department does grant permission for the proponent to build a buried communication cable.


26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:

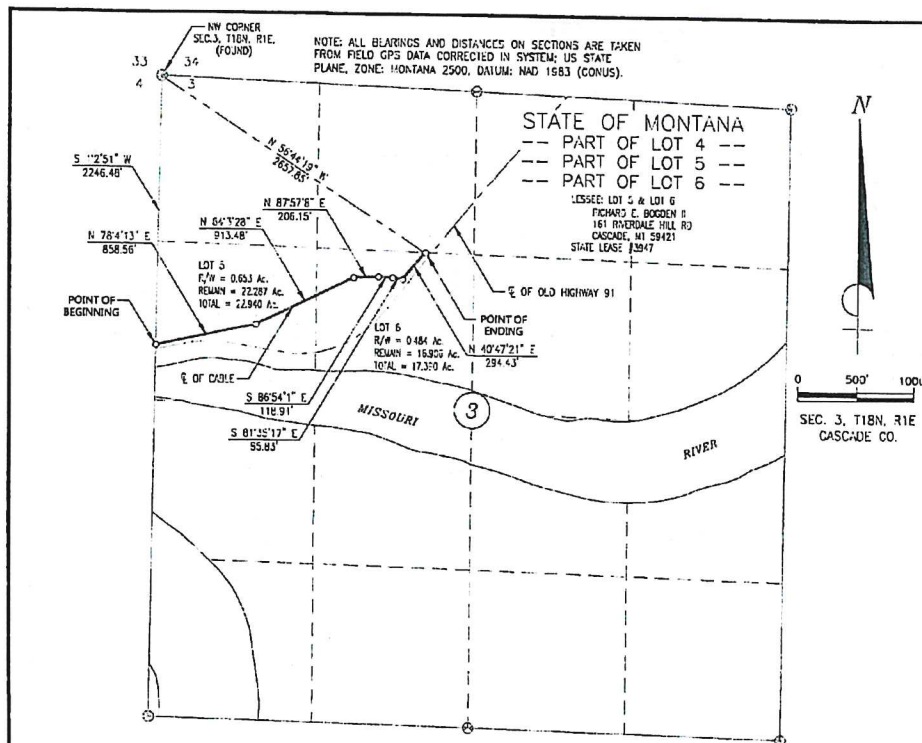
I have evaluated the potential environment effects and have determined no significant impact to the environment because of this project.

27. NEED FOR FURTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

☐ EIS ☐ More Detailed EA ☒ No Further Analysis

EA Checklist Prepared By:	Name: Dustin Lenz Title: Land Use Specialist
Signature: 	Date: 2 June 2020

EA Checklist Approved By:	Name: Jocee Hedrick Title: Unit Manager, Northeastern Land Office
Signature: 	Date: 6/2/2020



DESCRIPTION

A RIGHT-OF-WAY FOR AN UNDERGROUND COMMUNICATION CABLE EXTENDING TWENTY (20.0) FEET IN WIDTH WITH TEN (10.0) FEET ON EACH SIDE OF A CENTERLINE ALL WITHIN LOT 5 AND LOT 6 OF SECTION 3, TOWNSHIP 18 NORTH, RANGE 1 EAST OF THE PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, MONTANA, AND MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

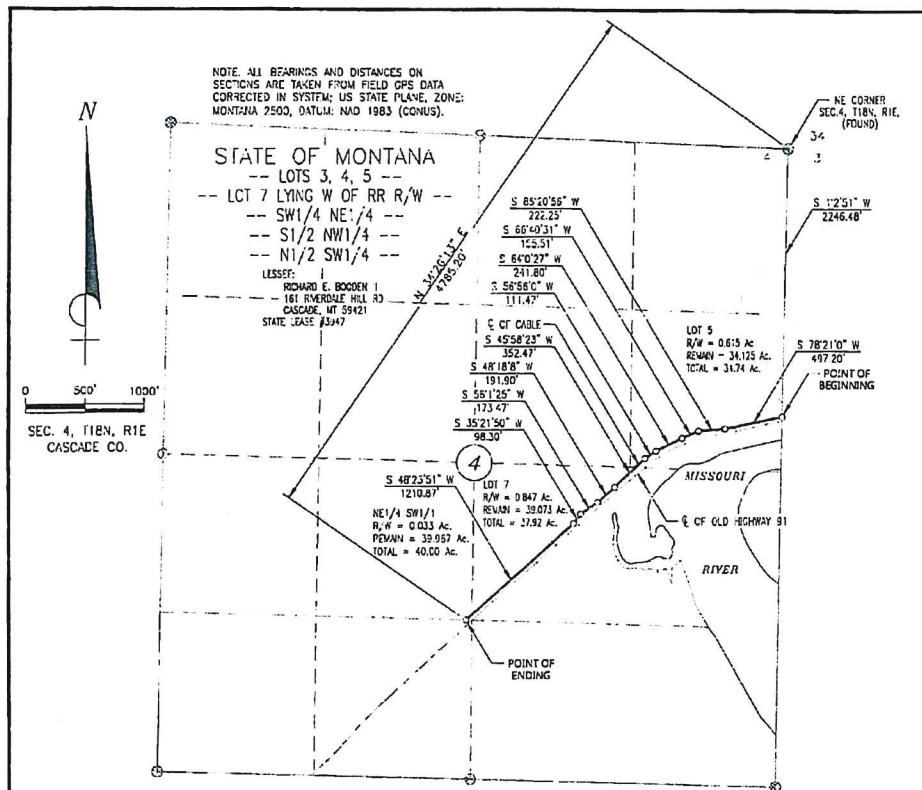
COMMENCING AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SAID SECTION 3; THENCE SOUTH 1°2'51" WEST A DISTANCE OF 2246.48 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING OF THE RIGHT-OF-WAY CENTERLINE AND WEST BOUNDARY OF LOT 5; THENCE ON AND ALONG THE RIGHT-OF-WAY CENTERLINE ON A BEARING OF NORTH 78°4'13" EAST A DISTANCE OF 658.56 FEET; THENCE NORTH 64°3'28" EAST A DISTANCE OF 913.48 FEET; THENCE NORTH 87°57'8" EAST A DISTANCE OF 206.15 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 86°54'1" EAST A DISTANCE OF 118.94 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 81°35'17" EAST A DISTANCE OF 55.83 FEET; THENCE NORTH 40°47'21" EAST A DISTANCE OF 294.43 FEET TO THE POINT OF ENDING OF THE RIGHT-OF-WAY CENTERLINE AND NORTH BOUNDARY OF LOT 6; THENCE NORTH 56°44'19" WEST A DISTANCE OF 2657.85 FEET TO THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SAID SECTION 3.

CONTAINED WITHIN THE ABOVE DESCRIBED NEW CONSTRUCTION RIGHT-OF-WAY IS 1.137 ACRES MORE OR LESS.

EXHIBIT of RIGHT-OF-WAY on STATE LAND
 Sec. 3, T 18 N, R 1 E, P.M.M.
 CASCADE CO.

SPECTRUM PACIFIC WEST, LLC
 ST. LOUIS, MO

CHARTER_3*51.DWG



DESCRIPTION

A RIGHT-OF-WAY FOR AN UNDERGROUND COMMUNICATION CABLE EXTENDING TWENTY (20.0) FEET IN WIDTH WITH TEN (10.0) FEET ON EACH SIDE OF A CENTERLINE ALL WITHIN LOT 5, LOT 7 AND THE NE1/4 SW1/4 OF SECTION 4, TOWNSHIP 18 NORTH, RANGE 1 EAST OF THE PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, MONTANA, AND MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

COMMENCING AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SAID SECTION 4; THENCE SOUTH 1°2'51" WEST A DISTANCE OF 2246.48 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING OF THE RIGHT-OF-WAY CENTERLINE AND EAST BOUNDARY OF LOT 5; THENCE ON AND ALONG THE RIGHT-OF-WAY CENTERLINE ON A BEARING OF SOUTH 78°21'0" WEST A DISTANCE OF 497.20 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 85°20'56" WEST A DISTANCE OF 222.25 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 66°40'31" WEST A DISTANCE OF 125.51 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 64°0'27" WEST A DISTANCE OF 241.80 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 56°56'0" WEST A DISTANCE OF 111.47 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 48°23'51" WEST A DISTANCE OF 1210.87 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 48°18'8" WEST A DISTANCE OF 191.90 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 56°12'5" WEST A DISTANCE OF 173.47 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 35°21'50" WEST A DISTANCE OF 98.30 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 48°23'51" WEST A DISTANCE OF 1210.87 FEET TO THE POINT OF ENDING OF THE RIGHT-OF-WAY CENTERLINE AND SOUTH BOUNDARY OF THE NE1/4 SW1/4 OF SAID SECTION 4; THENCE NORTH 34°26'13" EAST A DISTANCE OF 4785.20 FEET TO THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SAID SECTION 4.

CONTAINED WITHIN THE ABOVE DESCRIBED NEW CONSTRUCTION RIGHT-OF-WAY IS 1.495 ACRES MORE OR LESS.

EXHIBIT of RIGHT-OF-WAY on STATE LAND
Sec. 4, T 18 N, R 1 E, P.M.M.
CASCADE CO.

SPECTRUM PACIFIC WEST, LLC
ST. LOUIS, MO

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